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STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
LANSING



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SUPERINTENDENT OF  
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

TO: Local and Intermediate School District Superintendents, Public School  
Academy Directors, and Nonpublic School Administrators

FROM: Carol Wolenberg, Deputy Superintendent *CW*

DATE: February 19, 2008

SUBJECT: **USDA – FOOD RECALL – WESTLAND MEAT COMPANY  
Commodity Ground Beef Products**

Purpose

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide an overview and update of the Westland Meat Company recall. As explained below, both Gordon Food Service (GFS) and SYSCO properly notified their school customers of the situation a few weeks ago. The Michigan Department of Education (MDE) wants to make certain that all districts have taken the appropriate actions. I encourage you to read this notice carefully and take action as needed.

Overview

On January 30, 2008, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) issued an Administrative Hold involving commodities A594 (coarse ground beef) and A608 (fine ground beef) received from the Westland Meat Company. This hold was due to the processor using inhumane practices that were in violation of USDA specifications, and not due to safety concerns.

The processed beef products, using USDA commodity A594 coarse ground beef from Westland, would have been delivered by GFS and SYSCO Food Service to schools in Michigan during the school year 2007-2008.

GFS and SYSCO were notified of this hold by MDE on January 31, 2008. GFS and SYSCO then notified those schools that received processed products made from this commodity product via e-mail. Schools were told to hold these products until further direction was provided from the USDA.

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### Update

**The commodity ground beef products using USDA coarse ground beef from Westland Meat Company were produced by the following manufacturers that were involved in the hold: Advance Food Company, JTM Food Group, Kings Command, and Pierre Foods.**

The USDA commodity A608 fine ground beef from Westland would have been delivered by GFS and SYSCO during school year 2007-2008. The raw ground beef from Westland is identified by the Establishment Number (Est. 336) which is located inside the USDA mark of inspection on the case of raw ground beef. GFS and SYSCO notified schools to hold this commodity product as well.

### Action Needed

On Sunday, February 17, 2008, the USDA issued a food recall involving commodities A594 and A608. Schools are to segregate and continue holding cases of fine raw ground beef (A608) and processed beef products made from coarse ground beef (A594) until further instruction is received from USDA that will be forwarded by MDE to school districts regarding the disposal and replacement and/or credit for raw commodity product.

Any questions related to this memorandum should be directed to Jayme Priest, Consultant, at 517-335-3792 or e-mail at [priestj@michigan.gov](mailto:priestj@michigan.gov) and Lucia Campbell, Analyst, at 517-373-1073 or e-mail at [campbelll4@michigan.gov](mailto:campbelll4@michigan.gov).